

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6408

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION US BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0883

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: FMA OFFICIAL ON SOVIET TRADE BILL REFUSAL

1. DURING JANUARY 20 COURTESY CALL ON HIM BY POLITICAL
COUNSELOR, L.M. MAKSUDOV, CHIEF OF INFORMATION
DIVISION OF MFA, IN CONTEXT DISCUSSION OF IMPROVEMENT
U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS OVER LAST THREE YEARS, RAISED
SOVIET REFUSAL TO ACCEDE TO PROVISIONS OF TRADE BILL.
IN THIS REGARD, HE NOTED WARM PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING
WHICH HAD BEEN QUICKLY REACHED BY BREZHNEV AND
PRESIDENT FORD AND HIGH HOPES RAISED IN MOSCOW
AS RESULT VLADIVOSTOK MEETING. HE THEN CONTRASTED
THIS WITH GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT SOVIET FELT ONLY
A SHORT TIME THEREAFTER WHEN THEY SAW ACTUAL
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LANGUAGE OF TRADE BILL, WHICH HE SAID CLEARLY

VIOLATED 1972 U.S.-SOVIET ECONOMIC
AGREEMENT.

2. MAKSUDOV INSISTED THAT ACTUAL LANGUAGE USED IN
TRADE BILL WAS CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL NORMS OF
CONDUCT. TO HIGHLIGHT THIS HE SWITCHED FROM
RUSSIAN TO ENGLISH TO QUOTE VERBATIM WHAT HE
DESCRIBED AS THE OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE OF THE TRADE
BILL REGARDING COMMUNIST-RULED OR DOMINATED
"NON-MARKET ECONOMIES."

3. TONE OF MAKSUDOV'S REMARKS IN THIS REGARD WAS
SERIOUS, BUT MORE REGRETFUL THAN HOSTILE. HE WAS
VERY FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW AND DESCRIBED IN
DETAIL THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS DIVISION, WHICH HAD ONLY
BEEN ESTABLISHED IN 1968 AND ABOUT WHICH WE KNEW NOTHING
PREVIOUSLY. MAKSUDOV'S POSITION IS A MODERATELY
IMPORTANT ONE SINCE HIS DIVISION IS CHARGED WITH,
AMONG OTHER THINGS, TRANSMITTING POLICY GUIDANCE
TO SOVIET EMBASSIES. WE HAD STRONG FEELING, IN
FACT, THAT HIS DISQUISITION ON THE TRADE BILL
MAY WELL HAVE BEEN DIRECT QUOTATION FROM GUIDANCE
WHICH HIS DIVISION RECENTLY FURNISHED TO SOVIET
EMBASSIES ABROAD.

4. FULL ACCOUNT OF THIS CONVERSATION WILL BE
FORWARDED BY AIRGRAM.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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